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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

7 SEPTEMBER 2016

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Redwood City - Realistic Looking Hoax Bomb Left Outside City Hall

(U) An apparent hoax bomb was left outside of City Hall in Redwood City yesterday morning, prompting a scare that shut down the building and surrounding streets for 90 minutes. The faux explosive looked like a bundle of red sticks with wires and a timer on it and appeared like it could be a bundle of dynamite. Police have not determined why someone left the hoax device there, and no suspects have been named.

SOURCE: 6 September 2016, San Mateo Patch

(U) Sunnyvale – Online Threats Lead to Hate-Crime Arrest of Teen

(U) A 17-year-old Sunnyvale student was arrested after he allegedly sent threatening Instagram messages to at least two students, an act police have labeled a hate crime but refuse to specify what group was targeted. Officers took him into custody after pinning down the origin of the IP address from the offender's computer. No additional specifics of the incident have been released, but authorities stated that the student sent photos and messages to peers considered to be "violent in nature." SOURCE: 6 September 2016, SF Gate

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Personnel Management Hack Preventable, Congressional Probe Finds

(U) Washington – The US Office of Personnel Management (OPM) did not follow rudimentary cyber security recommendations that could have mitigated or even prevented major attacks that compromised sensitive data belonging to more than 22 million people according to a congressional investigation released today. Two breaches at the federal agency detected in 2014 and 2015 were made worse by lax security culture and ineffective leadership, which failed to harness available tools that could have stopped or limited the intrusions, according to the report. It also said OPM ignored repeated inspector general reports dating back to 2005 that warned of cyber security shortcomings. In response to the hacks, OPM was required to form a new agency with enhanced cyber capabilities to perform background investigations. That new entity, the National Background Investigations Bureau, is intended to replace OPM's Federal Investigative Services and will have its information systems handled by the Pentagon. It is expected to be operational by 1 October.

SOURCE: 7 September 2016, Reuters

(U) Florida- Man Linked to LGBT Threats Facing Federal Charges

(U) Orlando— A man linked to social media posts threatening a Pulse-style attack against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in South Florida was arrested on 3 September by the Florida Highway Patrol on an unrelated charge. According to the FBI, Craig Jungwirth has been charged in connection with online threats made in his name, and police say Facebook posts on 30 August mentioned the Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando and made threats planned for Labor Day weekend in the Wilton Manors area.

SOURCE: 4 September 2016, Sun Sentinel

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(U) Ohio- Coroner Links Elephant Tranquilizer to Series of Overdose Deaths

(U) Cincinnati— At least eight people in the Cincinnati area that died of heroin drug overdoses since mid-July had traces of a drug used to tranquilize elephants in their bodies. Another five overdoses were suspected to be connected to heroin laced with carfentanil, a drug that is roughly 10,000 times more potent than morphine, according to the National Center for Biotechnology Information. Authorities expect to see this tally rise as they test blood and urine samples from older cases. Law enforcement in several parts of the United States are grappling with opioid and heroin crises, with numerous states reporting overdoses due to drugs laced with other substances, a method used by some dealers to boost their supply or drug effects.

SOURCE: 6 September 2016, Reuters

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Brazil - Police Arrest Two Suspected Terror Supporters

(U) Rio de Janeiro – Brazilian police have detained two people for allegedly pledging allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) on social media. Federal police said in a statement that the arrests were made in the state of Sao Paulo, though the suspects' identities were not revealed. In late July, shortly before the August Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro kicked off, 12 people were arrested after discussing possible attacks at the sporting event. Two more were arrested later on similar allegations.

SOURCE: 6 September 2016, ABC News

(U) France – Terror Link after Gas Cylinders Found in Car Near Notre Dame

(U) Paris – French police are holding two suspects today after finding several gas cylinders in a car near Paris's Notre Dame cathedral. The car was discovered abandoned over the weekend with its hazard lights flashing. The owner of the car and another person, who are both known to security services, were arrested yesterday and anti-terror investigators have launched an investigation of the situation. A bar employee working near the cathedral raised the alert on Sunday after noticing a gas cylinder on the back seat of the car, which had no number plates. That cylinder was found to be empty but five full cylinders were found in the boot of the car. The head of France's DGSI domestic intelligence service, Patrick Calvar, warned in May of a "new form of attack" in which explosive devices would be left near sites that attract large crowds.

SOURCE: 7 September 2016, AFP

(U) France – France Sees Sharp Fall in Number of Citizens Joining ISIL

(U) Paris – The number of French citizens traveling to join ISIL in 2016 has dropped drastically from last year, Interior Minister said yesterday, putting the fall down to military reverses suffered by the militant group. With Europe's largest Muslim population, France has been a major center for recruitment of violent extremists joining ISIL, with hundreds of people traveling to the region since the group took control of large swathes of Iraq and Syria. The Interior Minster stated that 18 French people were recorded traveling to the area in the first six months of the year compared with 69 in the corresponding period in 2015. Despite this decreases, 689 French citizens are still in the region, including 275 women and 17 underage fighters.

SOURCE: 6 September 2016, Reuters

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(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Mexico – Mexican Authorities Arrest Drug Cartel Member Wanted in the United States

(U) Mexico City – Mexican authorities have arrested a suspected lieutenant of the Sinaloa drug cartel who is wanted in the United States. National Security Commissioner Renato Sales said the suspect, Martin "N," was arrested on Friday in Zapopan, western Jalisco state. The US Treasury Department declared in October 2011 that the man and his two brothers ran a drug distribution network and money laundering businesses in Culiacan, Sinaloa state. The Treasury Department identified him as Martin Guadencio Avendano Ojeda, who allegedly worked under Sinaloa leader Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada. The arrest is a new blow to the Sinaloa drug cartel led by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who was recaptured in January after escaping from prison last year.

SOURCE: 5 September 2016, AFP

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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